

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for detecting the putative agent for [TSE] Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies comprising taking a body tissue sample from an animal, reacting the sample in a immunological assay with a labelled antibody which is capable of reacting with [PrP^{SC}] prion protein - scrapie and determining in the amount of labelled antibody bound to the sample, wherein the antibody is one or more prion specific antibodies raised against one or more of the sequences selected from the group consisting of:

MVKSHIGSWILVLFVAMWSDVGLCKKRPKPGGGWNTGGSRYPGN - 44 (Seq. ID No 1),

GSPGGNRYPPQGGGGWGQPHGGGWGQPHGGGWGQPHGGGQGQP -87 (Seq. ID No 2),

GGGGWGQGGSHSQWNKPSKPPKTNMKHVAGAAAGAVVGGLGGY - 131 (Seq. ID No 3), and

MLGSAMSSPLIHFGNDYEDRYTRENMYRYPNQVYYRPVDRYSNQNN - 177 (Seq. ID No 4).

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [3] 1 wherein the antibodies are antibodies raised against [the underlined sequences shown in claim 3]

KRPKPGGGWNTGGSRYPGN, GSPGGNRYPPQGGGG, or
GGGGWGQGGSHSQWNKPSKPPKTNMKHVAGAAAGAVVGG.

Claim 5 (original): A method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the immunological

assay may be a competitive assay in which a solid support, suitably a microtitre plate, is pre-coated with a carrier protein-peptide conjugate, the animal tissue sample and an anti-peptide antibody are added to the solid support, allowed to react and the support washed, a labeled anti-(anti-peptide antibody) antibody is added, allowed to react, washed, a signal reagent added and the signal read.

Claim 6 (original). The method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the animals are selected from cattle, sheep, and pigs and the tissue sample is taken from carcass of such animals.

Claim 7 (original). A method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein a sample of CNS tissue, suitable a cross section of spinal cord, is used for testing.

Claim 8 (currently amended). A test kit for the detection of [TSE] Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies in animals comprising an anti-peptide antibody raised against a synthetic peptide sequence [having the general formula:

X- (R₁ - Lys - His - R₂) - Ala - Gly - Ala - Ala - Ala - R₃ - Gly - Ala - Val - Val Gly - Gly - Leu - Gly - Gly - Tyr - Met - Leu - Gly- Ser - Ala - Met - Ser - (Arg - Pro - R₄ - R₅) - Y
(Seq. ID No. 5)

wherein R₁ is an amino acid residue selected from Met, Leu and Phe;

R₂ is either Met or Val;

R₃ is Ala or is absent;

R₄ and R₅ are independently an amino acid residue selected from Leu, Ile and Met; one or more residues within brackets may be present or absent with the proviso that if they are present they are attached to the rest of the peptide in sequence; and x and y may each independently be absent or independently be one or more additional amino acid residues] selected from the group consisting of:

MVKSHIGSWILVLFVAMWSDVGLCKKRPKPGGGWNTGGSRYPGN - 44 (Seq. ID No 1).

GSPGGNRYPPQGGGGWGQPHGGGWGQPHGGGWGQPHGGGQGP -87 (Seq. ID No
2).
GGGGWGQGGSHSQWNKPSKPPKTNMKHVAGAAAGAVVGGLGGY - 131 (Seq. ID No
3), and
MLGSAMSSPLIHFGNDYEDRYTRENMYRYPNQVYYRPVDRYSNQNN - 177 (Seq. ID No
4).